

Application No.: 09/922,811
Examiner: Cam Y. T. TRUONG
Art Unit: 2162

In the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application including any current amendments. This list of claims is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for searching information on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer linked to the Internet; and

accessing at least one search assistant via a web browser on the computer linked to the Internet to search for information on the Internet, wherein the at least one search assistant is human and a specialist in searching on the Internet;

conducting a dialogue between the user and with the at least one human search assistant on-line over the Internet and in real time; and

using transmitting a first information request over the Internet to the one or more head human search assistants, the one or more head search assistants having below them a number of specialized adjunct human search assistants who each is specialized in one or more fields[,,];

wherein the head human search assistant reformulates the first information request into an adapted information request associated with the first information request and applies the adapted information request on at least one search robot for accessing information related to the first information request, the adapted information request being placed through an Internet Service Provider which communicates search results obtained by the at least one search robot to the head human search assistant via a web browser, the head human search assistant offering a user a selection of the search results in order for the user to make a first information selection based on the first information request displayed via the web browser, the head search assistant subsequently directing a call to the head human search assistant receives towards the first information selection to one of those the specialized adjunct human search assistants[;].

~~wherein the human search assistant reformulates a first information request of the user into an adapted information request associated with the first information request and applies the adapted information request on at least one search robot for accessing information related to the first information request.~~

2 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the human search assistant assists the user by searching on the Internet and indicates to the user where the information the user is looking for can be found on the World Wide Web or where the user should be looking on the World Wide Web or giving the user information found on the World Wide Web.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the human search assistant has such expertise in searching on the Internet that the assistant can be considered a web librarian and is able to give more information than the place to look in on the World Wide Web and is able to supervise the user in consulting the Internet.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the human search assistant makes use of search engines for searching on the Internet.

5 (Canceled).

6 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of using voice recognition via the Internet to carry out the user's communication with the human search assistant.

7 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of offering the user a visual representation of the human search assistant.

8 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of consulting the human search assistant via a device additional to the computer and selected from the group consisting of: a mobile phone, a palmtop, and an interactive television apparatus and a set-top box associated therewith.

9 (Canceled).

10 (Currently Amended). The method of claim [[9]] 1, further comprising the step of enabling additional contact of the same search assistant by the user by means of voice recognition, iris recognition or fingerprint recognition.

11 (Canceled).

12 (Canceled).

13 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the human search assistant assists the user when searching for services.

14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 13, wherein said services comprise on-line shopping, price and product comparison.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the human search assistant composes programs for the user comprising films, television or radio or music programs which are provided via the Internet.

16 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating with the user in the user's own language, with or without simultaneous translation.